

Shevlane and Lahle up for a laugh

ARTS WRITER

NHLANHLA SICELO MNISI and Comedy Factory International will present comics at Mojo Roots every Wednesday and at the Katilyst Theatre in Lower Main Road in Observatory every Thursday night.

Comedians will include Melody Shevlane, Alex Standy (Malawi), Mbongeni Nomkhonl-wana (Winner Vodacom Funny Festival 2007), Monica Lahle, Nangamso Lungane and Luthando Tshaya.

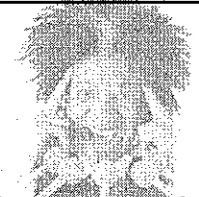
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BAND COMES HOME AFTER SAMA AWARD

Seether set to rock SA fans

JASON CURTIS

SEETHER – South Africa's most successful rock exports – wowed the judges at the 14th MTN South African Music Awards (Sama's) a few weeks ago, bagging the prestigious trophy. As a gesture of thanks, the full band is heading home next month to play to those who helped make them great.

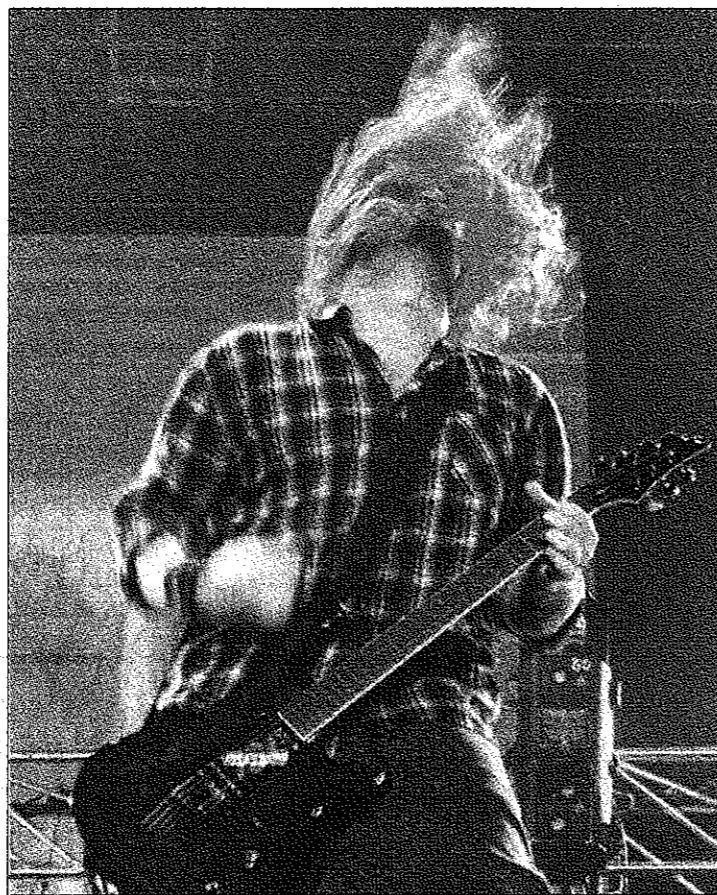
When the world sat up and once again embraced rock last year, the bands responsible for swinging the mainstream reciprocated with some incredibly powerful albums. One such disc (*Finding Beauty In Negative Spaces*) came from the Shaun Morgan distraction we all know and love, Seether.

The band's upcoming tour itinerary here will see them play at GrandWest Casino on June 15.

Shaun Welgemoed, or Morgan, depending which side of the Atlantic you're on, was in the country early in the year and sold out at Kirstenbosch in the driving rain as well as at The Blues Room in Jozi.

This confirmation that rock is indeed king was evident from the Sama nominees, with splendid, hard-as-nails offerings from The Springbok Nude Girls, Niemand and Taxi Violence.

With space for only one winner on the night, however, it



ROCKING: Shaun Morgan will play at GrandWest on June 15.

seems somewhat fitting that Shaun now gets to celebrate. On the back of his much-publicised breakup with Evanescence lead

singer Ami Lee three years ago, Welgemoed let go and spiralled into a debauched state of alcoholism that nearly killed him.

Thankfully for us all, he sought help and rebuilt his life and, in the process, produced one of Seether's finest albums yet. Confirmation came in the form of the band's first Sama Award and chart domination with *Fake It*, and the aptly titled follow up single, *Rise Above This*, which is currently pipping every other band to the top of the charts, including the No 1 position on the Billboard Modern Rock Chart.

So awards are all around and, with everyone keen to nab one, the happy/melancholic Morgan understands that the path to fortune and fame is paved with many a pothole. "We've been in America for six years and only now are we getting mainstream MTV airtime. The band has gone through many changes and now, as a three-piece, we're making the best music of our careers.

"I've had a couple of ups and downs, but I have an amazing family who've always been there for me, no matter what. Having been fortunate enough to have been chewed and spat out whole at the other end, the perspective I have today is a clear idea of what I need in my life."

For Shaun that meant a good old-fashioned purge. "It's amazing what cr*p we accumulate, and America is the best place to do that if stuff blows your hair

back," he says. "I've sold my house, my cars and have thrown out loads and it's an amazing feeling not to be bogged down."

With the better part of 2008 being spent on the road with the likes of Three Days Grace, and Breaking Benjamin, all he really needs is a comfy tour bus and rucksack anyway.

"After the success of the acoustic tour I did in January, I knew I had to bring the entire band back as soon as possible," Shaun recalls.

"We've been on the road since the New Year, so the show we're bringing home is incredibly well rehearsed," he smiles.

"Seriously though, I am in a good place and with the majority of the tracks on *Finding Beauty In Negative Spaces* delivering best in a live space, I'm excited to see how local fans react to what we've got planned."

About the band's Sama win, Shaun points out: "We've never been seen as cool enough by the media. The great thing about the hard work we've put in is that we're doing this on our terms now. It's us against the world!"

● So get your tickets to the upcoming tour, pick up a copy of *Finding Beauty In Negative Spaces* and understand just how hard it is to fake it, especially when it's all this good. To book, call Computicket on 083 915 8000.

What's ON

Bundu Blues

Guitarist Edi Niederlander will front her Bundu Blues Project at Fogeys on May 31 at 8pm. The band will include bassist Annie Hvidsten as well as didgeridoo/tabla player Ronan Skillen. Tickets R40. Call 021 788 3252.

Dazzling isicathamiya

The Cape Town Red Dazzlers Isicathamiya Choir and dancers will share the stage with the Purdue Varsity Glee Club Choir, a group of 50 male voices from Lafayette, Indiana in the US, at a concert at the Cape Town City Hall on May 28 at 8pm. Their repertoires will span classical, contemporary, gospel and show music. Tickets R100 and R120. Call Computicket on 083 915 8000. For group bookings, call 021 461 3746.

Vocal delights

A cappella group Adamsappel will sing at Die Boer on June 4 and June 5 at 8pm. The nine-

member ensemble are all graduates of the University of Stellenbosch. Tickets R80. Call 021 979 1911.

CPO symphony season

A symphony concert with the Cape Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) on Thursday at 8pm in the City Hall will feature pianist Anton Nel playing Brahms's *Piano Concerto No 1* in a programme conducted by Conrad van Alphen. Also included will be Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail Overture* and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No 4* (the "Italian"). Call 021 421 7695.

Bell-Roberts to move

The Bell-Roberts Gallery will move to Fairweather House, 176 Sir Lowry Road, Woodstock, in June. The exhibition *Between Meaning and Matter* will run from June 25 until August 8. Artists included in the launch exhibition are Kevin Brand, Lyndi Sales, Johann van der Schijff, Nigel Mullins, Tanya Poole, Lynette Bester, Amelia Smith, Norman O'Flynn and Jacques Coetzer. Call 021 422 1100.

Christmas movie a piece of cake

NEW YORK: Johnny Knoxville and Parker Posey have been signed up to star in John Waters's Christmas film *Fruitcake*.

The plot is under wraps, but is said to focus on the title character, a boy named after

his favourite dessert.

He runs away from home during the holidays after he and his parents are caught shoplifting meat. He meets a runaway girl, who is raised by two gay men, who is searching for her birth mother. – Reuters

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He'll be back ... as new movie tries to beat strike

LOS ANGELES: He'll be back – Hollywood strike or no strike!

Cameras have begun rolling on the latest *Terminator* movie – estimated to cost about \$150 million – for what many Hollywood watchers say is a late start given concerns that labour tensions could lead to an actors' strike by July.

Terminator Salvation: The Future Begins, which stars Christian Bale, is being shot in New Mexico.

It aims to buck a trend in which studios have mostly avoided launching productions that cannot be

Many studios have rushed ahead with production to get insurance coverage, which was contingent on shooting being scheduled to end by June 15. The policies reimburse producers for strike losses if filming is delayed past June 30 by unforeseen circumstances, such as an actor's illness or equipment damage.

Few, if any, studio movies were put into production after late March or early April.

Steven Spielberg called off an April start to a film about the trial of the 1992 anti-apartheid activist